

REMARKS

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 13 and 17. The present claim amendments are responsive to the Examiner's concerns noted in the Office Action.

112 Rejections

Claims 5 and 21 have been amended to clarify the opening and the protective guard. The improper antecedent basis in claims 13 and 17 has been overcome by amendment.

103 Rejections based on Carlson

Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 6 and 21 as amended are not rendered obvious by Carlson, either taken alone or in combination with other references.

Claim 1 as amended requires a funnel-shaped aperture extending into the dispenser. Carlson does not disclose a funnel-shaped aperture.

Claim 6 as amended require a separate mounting member extending between the side panels for facilitating assembling the metal front panel to the plastic side panels. Carlson does not disclose a separate mounting member. Applicant notes that the separate mounting member allows the plastic side panels to hold the front metal panel in place, without fastener fastening the side plastic panels to the front metal panel. This provides an elegant, aesthetic assembly of the parts. This aspect is further defined in dependent claim 11 as amended. In addition, the mounting member can include a funnel-shaped structure defining the aperture, which is required in dependent claim 10.

Claim 21 as amended requires a protective guard defining a funnel-shaped aperture. As noted above, Carlson does not disclose a funnel-shaped aperture.

None of the other cited references make up for the deficiencies of Carlson. Namely, none of the other references disclose a funnel-shaped aperture, or a separate mounting member. Hence, even if Carlson can somehow be combined with any of the other cited references, the combination does not obtain the present invention as now defined. Accordingly, the independent claims 1, 6 and 21, and all the claims dependent therefrom, are patentable over Carlson, whether taken alone or in combination with other cited references.

103 Rejections based on Hochtritt

Hochtritt shares similar deficiencies as Carlson.

Claim 1 as amended requires a funnel-shaped aperture extending into the dispenser.

Hochtritt does not disclose a funnel-shaped aperture.

Claim 6 as amended require a separate mounting member extending between the side panels for facilitating assembling the metal front panel to the plastic side panels. Hochtritt does not disclose a separate mounting member. Hochtritt instead discloses a snap-on cover for its container, without any use of a separate mounting member.

Claim 21 as amended requires a protective guard defining a funnel-shaped aperture. As noted above, Hochtritt does not disclose a funnel-shaped aperture.

None of the other cited references make up for the deficiencies of Hochtritt. Namely, none of the other references disclose a funnel-shaped aperture, or a separate mounting member. Hence, even if Hochtritt can somehow be combined with any of the other cited references, the combination does not obtain the present invention as now defined. Accordingly, the independent

claims 1, 6 and 21, and all the claims dependent therefrom, are patentable over Hochritt, whether taken alone or in combination with other cited references.

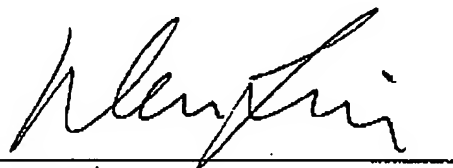
Claims 13 and 17

Independent claims 13 and 17 have been amended to include some of the limitations of the base claim 1, but omitted limitations clearly not required for patentability over the cited references.

CONCLUSION

In view of all the foregoing, Applicant submits that the claims pending in this application are patentable over the references of record and are in condition for allowance. Such action at an early date is earnestly solicited. **The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned representative to discuss any outstanding issues that may not have been adequately addressed in this response.**

Respectfully submitted,



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